

THE

# HISTORIAN

On the Web [www.gulfcoastplus.com](http://www.gulfcoastplus.com)*Of Hancock County**Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi**August 1996*

## AUGUST HAPPENING

In lieu of a luncheon meeting this month, we repeated a century-old tradition of making a train excursion from Hancock County into New Orleans and returning on the evening train. Sixty of our members made the trip. We were only sorry that we had to turn away others.

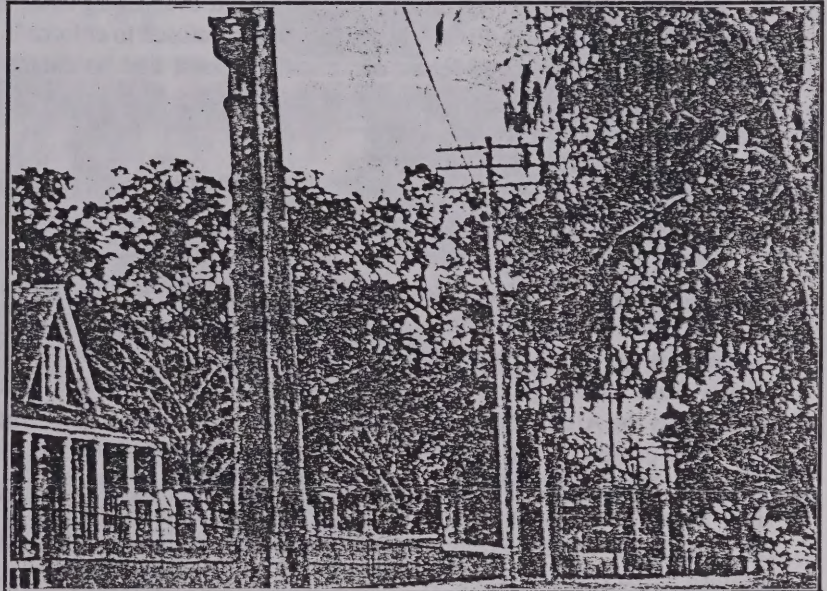
Amtrak added an extra car to accommodate our group. Casino Magic and Flamingo casinos provided buses from the New Orleans depot to the Flamingo Casino on the Riverwalk and gave each passenger a souvenir of the occasion.

Flamingo Casino provided VIP Admission, Free Full American Breakfast Buffet, and a Free Pull Coupon for a slot machine. Besides fun at the casino, our travelers had time for shopping and luncheons. The buses took the tired and happy Hancock countians back to the depot for the return trip to Bay Saint Louis.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We have contracted with Larry Rehm and Harry Wheat of PC Experts in the Choctaw Shopping Center for the maintenance of our computers and they have done wonders in helping us set up new programs, NOW THAT WE ARE ON THE WEB. Aren't you pleased to know that if you happen to be in Bangkok and have access to an

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E. J. BOWERS CLAIMED THESE LIGHT POLES SPOILED HIS VIEW

## A FIGHT FOR LIGHT

An 1899 contract to install street lights in Bay St. Louis was not a welcome bit of progress to all its citizens. Indeed, the strongest opposition came from none other than the district's U.S. Congressman, who won a court injunction for the removal of poles, wires and lights, arguing that they led to "disfigurement of the view" from his several properties on Beach Boulevard (then called Front Street). "and a considerable element of their value...which consists of an open and unobstructed view of the Mississippi Sound."

The Honorable Eaton J. Bowers, attorney, publisher of the Gulf Coast

Progress, Mississippi Democratic presidential elector (who cast his vote for Grover Cleveland), state senator from 1896 to 1898, four-term U.S. Congressman from 1902 until 1910, was a leading citizen of Bay St. Louis who owned four pieces of property on both sides of Front Street, including his home at 402 North Beach Boulevard.

The municipal authorities had contracted with Gulf Coast Ice and Manufacturing Company on Dec. 21, 1899. The firm erected poles on and "along the streets of the city, attached wires and other necessary appliances for lighting the streets with electricity and inaugurated and put in operation an electric light plant, which lighted

(Continued on page 2)



## HCHS WINS ALPHA AWARD

The Fashion Group International held its 12th Annual Alpha Awards ceremony on August 10 in New Orleans. The awards are designed to acknowledge and showcase the outstanding talent of the fashion and related industries in the Alpha region, consisting of Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Alabama and the Florida peninsula.

The Hancock County Historical Society was awarded a First Place Alpha for the category "Use of fashion to promote a non-fashion-related enterprise" for Le Marin Cottage Decorator Show House 1995 as the most outstanding fund raiser in the region.

The five judges, four from New York and one from Atlanta, leaders in the fashion, advertising and merchandising fields, selected the Society from a large group of entries from across the Alpha region.

Also of note in the category of "Interior Design/Residential" were Herb Moore and Wynn Seemann of By Design of Ocean Springs who received a first place Alpha award for their decorating of the Great Room for the Decorator Show House. Yancy Pogue, Carter Church and Old World Craftsmen of Bay St. Louis received a second place Alpha Award for the kitchen at Le Marin cottage in the same category.

The Society's award includes an original lass sculpture by Studio Inferno of New Orleans, mounted on an engraved stand which is currently on display in the Kate Lobrano House.

## RECORD CAR SPEED SET

In 1920, the Automobile Club of Louisiana's pioneer car, traveling on the Honey Island Road, sped from New Orleans to Bay Saint Louis in two hours, seven minutes.

## (LIGHT from page 1)

the streets of the city in conformity with their contract," according to court documents of the day.

Bowers won an injunction that required Gulf Coast to remove the electrical poles and equipment, charging that they were "erected along the streets abutting his properties without his consent, and to his great injury and annoyance." The injunction was later modified to an order to put everything back, but the local court refused to enforce it.

Gulf Coast had no choice but to appeal to the Mississippi Supreme Court.

The court ruled that "The authorities are quite uniform that a city or town may light its streets as a means of making them more safe and convenient for public travel. The right to light the town is presumed to have been acquired and paid for...the taking of the land for use as a street includes not only the right of passage, but of securing a convenient and safe passage, to light it, if you please, for that purpose. It is not a new taking of property for public use, but a completing to that extent of the uses of the first taking...."

"The proprietary rights of landowner...are greatly modified by the rights of the public, which is entitled to a free passage over the streets, and to the benefit of lights constructed and operated for that end.

"It is said the poles and wires..... are unsightly, and are a disfigurement of the property, and an especial injury in that it obstructs the open view of the sea," the justices wrote. "Similar erections in all cities and towns present, though perhaps to a less degree, like inconvenience to the owners of palatial residences..."

Edith Back

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YOUR LIVE OAK? CALL  
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## FIRST WHITE SETTLER

The first known white man to live along the Pearl River was Simon Favre, a Frenchman. Born June 1, 1760 at Mobile, Simon was the oldest child of Jean Claude Favre and Marguerite Wilte Favre.

The naturalist Bartham made a reference to Simon Favre's residence on Pearl River in 1777, when Bartham made a trip from Florida to Louisiana that year. Favre's residence was located about one mile north of Pearlington at the landing on the Pearl River known as "The Gin."

Favre was the principal interpreter between French and Indians. As a reward for his work he received a Spanish land grant which encompassed much of modern-day Hancock County.

In 1810 Favre was appointed justice for the Parish of Viloxi (Biloxi). He died in 1813 in Mobile. (Source: Pearlington: Church and Community by Dr. Bill Jenkins)

## FINE CONVEYANCES

This ad appeared in the Sea Coast Echo on May 20, 1893:

"Achille Fayard, the proprietor of a carriage line, has a fine line of carriages and he makes all trains for the accommodation of visitors to the city. His turnouts are among the best in the city, and he furnishes teams with or without drivers, as those engaging a team may desire.

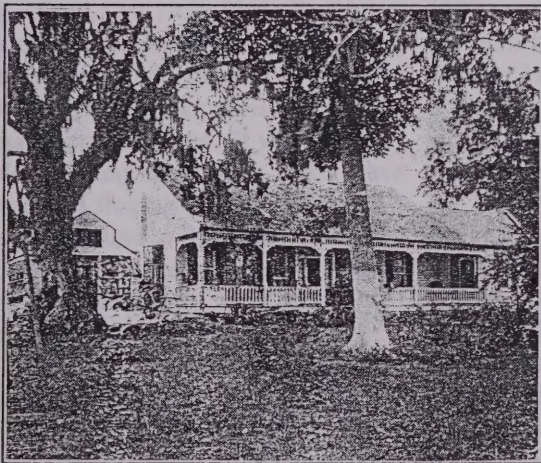
"He makes a specialty of hunting and excursion parties, and always gives his patrons the best of rigs, good services, and has good, steady horses that are willing to go, as he has in buying his horses made it a point to get only safe horses, but buys only those that are active, and his horses will bring you and your business or pleasure at the same place in a very short time."





## THE MONET - BREATH HOME

Located at 616 North Beach Boulevard, Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi



RESIDENCE OF C.A. BREATH

This beautiful home is listed number 13 on the National Register of Historic Places as follows: "Ca. 1820 with Queen Anne style additions ca. 1880. Rectangular plan gable-roofed main block with added central gable polygonal bay and turreted porch. Bracketed undercut gallery. Shingle and scroll-sawn decorations. (P)" Note: The (P) at the end signifies that the structure is rated as being of *Primary* significance.

Records show that the central section of the house was built in 1818 for Judge P.C. Monet who was Mayor of Shieldsboro (later Bay Saint Louis) in 1858.

The small photograph of the house appeared in the Sea Coast Echo on May 9, 1903.

The "North wing" which was built about 1880 is evident. The delightful, turreted porch and the front

central gable with the Paladin windows were added about 1909.

It has been home to four generations of the Breath family, all of whom have been prominent, both socially and civically. Both the house and the family are considered treasures of the city.





## THE MOUNT - BRANATH HOME

The Mount - Branath Home is a large, two-story house with a prominent chimney on the left side. The house is surrounded by a well-kept lawn and a few trees. The architecture is a blend of traditional and modern styles, with a gabled roof and large windows. The house is located in a quiet neighborhood, and the surrounding area is lush with greenery. The house is a perfect example of a modern home with a touch of tradition.

The house is a two-story structure with a gabled roof and a prominent chimney on the left side. The exterior is finished with light-colored siding, and the windows are large and rectangular. The house is surrounded by a well-kept lawn and a few trees. The architecture is a blend of traditional and modern styles, with a gabled roof and large windows. The house is located in a quiet neighborhood, and the surrounding area is lush with greenery. The house is a perfect example of a modern home with a touch of tradition.



(PRESIDENT from page 1)

on line service, you can get the Historian Immediately.

Dantagnan Realty presented the Society with a check to purchase a Sharp UX 186 Fax machine that we have been hoping for. We have just received our first unsolicited fax. (I sent us three myself, but that doesn't count) from Casino Magic about the trip to New Orleans. Thank you Edith, Maggie and the staff at Dantagnan.

Mrs. Tony (Mable) Monti and Mrs. Ellis (Jane) Cuevas gave the Society portraits of their grandparents, Duncan Walter Maynard and Mabel Maples Maynard. Duncan Walter Maynard was Katherine Lobrano's brother. They are large portraits which will hang over the mantle in the Lobrano House parlor. We are delighted to have these family treasures.

Our rose garden is in its third blooming cycle. Jim Bell has done wonders in coaxing them along. By next summer the garden should be a showplace.

As you know, we treasure photographs of our past and we have certainly struck gold lately. A new company, One Hour Photo Finishing, near Jitney Jungle has an excellent laser copier and they do a beautiful job of copying snapshots or portraits that people bring us. If you have any old photographs that you have intended sharing with us and haven't gotten around to it, just take them by One Hour. You will get your photo back immediately and they will charge our copies to us.

We have been given the Charter for the Woman's Benefit Association, dated 1919. Does anyone know anything about this organization? If so, please call our office and enlighten us.

Remember that 108 Cue Street is YOUR downtown address. Come by when you are downtown. We look forward to the visits.

Charles Gray

## BACK TO SCHOOL

Our readers who are writing four- and five-figure checks for the coming academic year's fees for their progeny may find the following April 30, 1867 advertisement in the New Orleans Daily Picayune interesting: "ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY FOR YOUNG LADIES, BAY ST. LOUIS, MISS.

"This institution has the peculiar advantage of being immediately on the Gulf of Mexico, commanding a full view of the same, and enjoying both the sea breezes and the sea bathing.

"Terms: For Board, Tuition and Washing, per annum \$220, Payable quarterly in advance. Music lessons, per month \$7; Drawing per month, \$4. For further information, apply to the Institution to Sister M. Esperance."

## BEN FRANKLIN REDUX

Ben Franklin Scallion, born Ramsay Favre Scallion to a family of prominent sharecroppers in Firth County, Ireland, on February 20, 1822, was given the name Ben Franklin in 1837 after he hooked his younger brother to a kite by means of a copper wire and flew the kite in a violent electrical storm, electrocuting the child.

Of scientific bent, Scallion spent his early twenties in an agricultural laboratory where he attempted to develop a cross between the Irish potato and the common mushroom.

The seedlings he produced were very prodigious, and young Scallion had no trouble convincing the Irish potato farmers that they should abandon their old-fashioned potatoes in favor of his new fast-growing hybrid. This was the winter of 1844; it was not until the potatoes were harvested, in the spring of 1845 that it was discovered that the young Scallion's potato was inedible.

Having caused the Irish potato famine of 1845, Scallion fled the country, first to France, where he was soon discovered by Irishmen who had moved there in search of food, and later to America, where he managed to escape detection by moving to tiny Bay St. Louis, Mississippi and wearing a Groucho disguise at all times. He resumed his agricultural experiments, developing the onion/crabgrass hybrid which bears his name to this day.

Receiving a one-cent royalty on each scallion grown, he became rich. Scallion died March 19, 1902, leaving an estate of over eighty million dollars which, perhaps because of the stigma attached to his name, still lies in the old Hancock Bank vault and has never been claimed by any of his eight descendants in the area. (Source: Bernard Siegal, British Genealogical Society, London, Dover, and Pearlinton).

## VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

### LOBRANO HOUSE HOURS

MONDAY	8 a.m.
through	to
FRIDAY	4 p.m.

The

## HISTORIAN

of Hancock County

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*Hancock County Historical Society*

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